

## SENATOR REED ASKS A PERTINENT QUESTION

If He Was Right in His Contention Then Is He Now Entitled to Justice

Sustains His Position by Quoting from Message of President Wilson Delivered Last Week

Senator James A. Reed is now at his post in Washington, and is feeling, according to his letter, more satisfied with the course that he pursued last season than he was before President Wilson delivered his great message to Congress in joint assembly at the convening of the present session. The whole country read and knew of his efforts in the senate in reference to the proposed food administration of this country when it was proposed at the last session and the efforts that he made to defeat or modify certain parts of it—and also the criticism to which he fell heir on account of those efforts on his part. Now that President Wilson has delivered his message Senator Reed points out the features of the Hoover bill to which he took exception and cites President Wilson's message as proof. In the following letter sent out to the Missouri press Senator Reed says:

To the Members of the Missouri Press  
"WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1917.—At the time the Food Control Bill was before Congress I contended that it would work an injustice to the farmer because it proposed to control the prices or restrict the free market of the things the farmer had to sell, but did not protect him against excessive prices on the things he had to buy, and that the bill thus framed was inequitable. I insisted that if the price of the farmer's products were to be controlled then the price of those things he used must be similarly controlled."

"These statements I repeated from day to day and in many forms. Because I did so I was denounced as an obstructor and by some even as an enemy of the Republic and as a friend of Germany."

"Now comes the President of the United States in his message making his statement as to the effect of the workings of the law. I am printing that statement as to how the law has worked and my statement as to how the law would work in parallel columns, citing the date of the Congressional Record so that those desiring may verify the accuracy of the quotations."

"I make no comment save to ask this question: If I was right in my contention ought not those who bitterly assailed me do me the justice of a correction?"

Very sincerely yours,  
JAS. A. REED.  
From the Congressional Record  
Senator Reed's predictions as to the workings of the Food Control Bill for which he was criticised as fighting the President, June 29 and August 4, 1917:

"Mr. Reed. What I am trying to impress upon the Senator is that if you deny to the farmer the benefit of the competition of the world for that which he produces, you must give to him a protection against the competition of the world in that which he is to purchase."

"Now, I call the Senator's attention to this fact: The farmer is a consumer as well as a producer, and on the average he consumes just exactly as much as any other man. He has to have boots and shoes; and if you make him sell his wheat in a controlled market, you must give him his boots and shoes from that same market, so that he gets them equitably. He must have barbed wire for his fences. He must have agricultural implements to till his fields. He must have wagons. He must have harness. He must have groceries."

"He must have sugar and tea and coffee. He must have everything that every ordinary person in the world has. Now, if you make him sell in a controlled market, must you not in the very nature of things give him the benefit of purchasing in that same controlled market, and put it all within one agency? Where can you stop?"

Mr. Page. "May I ask the Senator if he is without any qualification—in favor of covering all of the necessities of life by this bill and allowing Mr. Hoover, or anyone for him, to make the price?"

Mr. Reed. "I am, if we pass the bill giving control of the farmer's product; then I shall insist upon the other."

have already passed that statute through the Senate, although it has not been accepted by the House. My theory, then, is that having done those things we should do everything possible to promote as large a production as we can, and that then we would have to protect our country against the action of Europe—the term used by Mr. Hoover, and a very good one—and that that in itself is going to control the farmer's prices a good deal. It is a very dangerous power unless it is very carefully employed, but I am willing to give that, and my theory is that that is about all we can do. But if you enter upon the other theory, the theory of controlling these prices for the farmer and denying him a world market, you must protect him upon the other hand or you will ruin him; and when you ruin the farmer you will have killed the very thing that we are starting this legislation for, namely, the effort to produce a greater crop in the world."

Wednesday, August 8 (legislative day of Saturday, August 4), 1917.  
"Again, Mr. President, if the powers conveyed by this bill are employed, it will deprive the farmer of the last vestige of a free market in which to sell what he produces. At the same time he will be compelled to buy in a market where war prices prevail."

Compared with President Wilson's statement as to the way the Food Control Bill has affected the country, December 4, 1917.

Following is the text of the address of President Wilson delivered yesterday at the joint session of the two houses of Congress, December 4, 1917:  
"Recent experience has convinced me that the Congress must go further in authorizing the government to set limits to prices. The law of supply and demand, I am sorry to say, has been replaced by the law of untrained selfishness. While we have eliminated profiteering in several branches of industry it still runs impudently rampant in others. The farmers, for example, complain with a great deal of justice that, while the regulation of food prices restricts their incomes, no restraints are placed upon the prices of most of the things they must themselves purchase; and similar inequities obtain on all sides."

## THE INCOME TAX

People Do Not Seem to Now Understand It But They Soon Will

This paper is almost daily in receipt of requests for information on the income tax, despite the fact that the bill has been published in full. For their benefit it may be stated that every person whose annual income is in excess of \$1,000 must make a written return to the United States between January 1 and March 1 of 1918, for the year of 1917, and thereafter a report for each year must be made so long as the present law is in effect.

The new law is applicable to incomes in 1917 and the first report must be made next January and not later than March for the year of 1917. Failure to make a report subjects the offender to the imposition of a maximum fine of \$1,000 or a smaller amount as the discretion of the federal court may direct.

All married persons are entitled to an exemption of \$2,000 and will pay taxes on income funds in excess of that amount, while single men are taxed on sums in excess of \$1,000, but everyone with an income of more than \$1,000 must make a report.

A single man must pay a normal tax of 2 per cent on income above \$1,000. If the income, however, runs to high figures, he must pay a larger per cent, regulated by the amount of the income. A married man tax of 2 per cent on income above \$2,000, but if said income runs to high figures the tax grows.

The one particular thing to remember is that you must make out a statement between January 1 and March 1, of next year, showing your income for the year 1917, and tax, if you owe any must be paid. This applies to every one, farmers as well as merchants, doctors as well as lawyers, etc.

## THE BULLETS SPARED HIM

But a Motor Car in Peaceful Andrew County Crushed Out Edwin Berry's Life.

When a heavy motor car in which Edwin C. Berry, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Dixon Berry of this city, and Dr. F. G. Beard of Maitland skidded against the guard rails of a bridge over a small ravine three miles north of Fillmore Tuesday night and the rails gave way, allowing the car to fall twelve feet to the bottom of a ravine, pinning the two men beneath the car young Berry, who for five months drove almost daily through German shot and shell on French battlefields, was so badly hurt that his young life went out, while Dr. Beard, who had at last managed to free himself, was gone for help with which to lift the heavy car prison from the prostrate body of his friend and companion. It was certainly a tragic sequel to escape death every day in war devastated lands only to meet destruction in a land of peace and among the friends who knew and loved him.

Edwin and Dr. Beard left Maitland in Dr. Beard's heavy car late Tuesday night bound for this city. At the point where the accident occurred there is a dangerously sharp turn in the road just before the bridge across the ravine is reached. It is the theory of those familiar with the ground, that when the car made the turn it skidded on account of the snow which covered the ground and striking the bridge rails crashed through and down into the ravine.

After the car stopped the two men were cooped up beneath the car which lay bottom side up. Both were unconscious for a short time, but on returning to consciousness talked over the situation and even joked about it. By kicking against Beard's left foot which was wedged beneath the car Berry succeeded in freeing Beard and the latter ran to a farm house for help after first being assured by Berry that he was not hurt and would be comfortable until Beard returned—but he was mistaken—for when Dr. Beard and three farmers returned a short time later and lifted the car from his body hemorrhage of the brain had done what German bullets failed to accomplish and Edwin Berry was no more.

Dr. Beard was considerably cut and bruised but none of his wounds were of a serious character. The body was taken to Fillmore, where it was prepared for removal to the home of his parents on Asylum boulevard, from which place it was taken to its last home Thursday followed to that place by a sorrowing cortege of relatives and friends.

Edwin C. Berry was a young man of much promise and of brilliant parts and attainments. He was the idol of his parents and the friend and companion of a large circle who will miss his pleasing personality and hearty good fellowship.

## A \$2,000,000 BOND ISSUE FOR ROADS

Petitions will soon be submitted to the county court asking that body to call a special election to vote \$2,000,000 in bonds for road improvement in this county. A hundred or more petitions are now being circulated over the city and county asking that the election be held and pledging the vote of the signer of the petition for the proposition. A good roads meeting at Hotel Robidoux Thursday was enthusiastically in favor of the proposition. If the necessary number of signers are secured to petitions it is mandatory on the part of the county court to call the election—and signers are already secured—and in great majority.

## CARELESS DRIVER INJURES J. R. COLEMAN

When Sam Rubicoff, an irresponsible 17 year old boy, drove his Ford car at full speed into the side of a Dodge car driven by James R. Coleman of 103 North Twenty-third street at Thirteenth and Farson streets Thursday noon, Coleman was badly hurt in the wreck and Rubicoff escaped without a scratch. The boy, who was driving a butcher delivery, was going at a high rate of speed when he struck the Dodge, according to eye witnesses. Just more reckless driving.

The optimism of the negro is proverbial and one of its best exemplifications comes in an anecdote from Harrisonville. A negro there went on a spree and when he sobered up was minus a job in the hard times, and cold and hungry. His bewailment of his bad luck was thus interrupted by a companion. "Oh boy, you may lose yo' job an' everything go wrong, an' all that, but dey jist kaint keep yo' farn livin'."

## BEAT A WORLD RECORD OVER FIVE MINUTES

Company C of the Eighth Engineers Perform a Most Remarkable Feat

## ELMER GEIOWITZ IS ONE OF THE BUILDERS

The Way That the Engineers of That Division Took Hold of the Work Bodes No Good to the Enemies of the World After These Young Fellows Get Into Action Building Bridges Across Streams So That the American Troops May Chase the Retreating Foe on Their Way to the Capital of the Ruthless Ruler Over the Rhine and on to Berlin.

Company C of the Eighth Engineers mounted, now stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, has made a world's record for young engineers, and this will be highly pleasing news to the many friends of a large number of young men from this section of Missouri who are members of that now famous company. There are several St. Joseph boys in that company, among them Elmer C. Geiowitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Geiowitz, the latter being one of the well known druggists of this city.

In a letter to his parents young Geiowitz gave a brief report of the feat which has made his company famous, but his modesty seems to have prevented him from entering into details, so it is left for Magnus W. Tate, son of Judge and Mrs. M. G. Tate of Maryville, who is one of the bridge builders, to give a detailed account of the feat, which he did in a letter to his uncle, George B. Baker, the well known Maryville banker, in which he says:

Was Good Hard Work  
"We have been out on the river building bridges for the last month and it was good hard work, but we got some splendid results. We broke the world's record on light pontoon bridge, assembled sixteen boats and two trestles and built the bridge, 298½ feet in length, in 2½ minutes, with 59 men. This is 5½ minutes under the record of a bridge built in 1915 by Company L with 167 men. We built the heavy pontoon in 19½ minutes, better than 250 feet. Also had splendid luck with our heavier bridges. We built pontoon bridges at night by search light and moonlight. The commander of the Southern department was out to see us work and told us as long as we had all that was expected of engineers, and with the situation in France as it is, we would expect to go over mounted in the near future, and that we would put our time in on mounted drill and individual horsemanship. We will have to jump high hurdles and trenches, using but one hand as we would do in charging a trench. I do not anticipate any trouble as my horse will go anywhere for me. If you treat them good it doesn't take them long to know you and have confidence in you."

Ladies Bring Ice Cream and Cake  
"It would surprise you the many things that are taught us. We have built bridges, railroads, dug trenches, had mounted and dismounted drills, rifle practice, pistol practice, both mounted and dismounted, knots and lashings, blocks and tackles, and many other things, such as map-making. My company goes on a five-day hike Tuesday, but I will not have to go as I am in the hospital. The doctor tried to get me transferred to the finance department of the quarter-master's corps, but it was disapproved of at Southern headquarters as there was no vacancy at the time. I have suffered terribly with my feet lately, so he sent me over here for a good rest. It will mean wonders for me, for all you have to do is to eat and sleep and sweat a few flies if they bother you. This afternoon some of the fellows came over from Camp Baker to see me, and some ladies from El Paso brought us ice cream and cake. I figure it will take a good long rest to make up for all the hard work I have done in the last six months."

Warm Days and Cold Nights  
"I was so anxious to come home Christmas, but do not think I will get to come now. I expect to do a week's kitchen police and stable police and guard and anything else they can think of when I get out of the hospital, so I guess I will spend Christmas day in the kitchen."

The days are still very warm down here, but the nights are very cold, but men."

## JOHN S. BRITAIN NO MORE

One of St. Joseph's Best Known Business Men Is Called to His Last Home.

With the calling away of John S. Britain, the summons coming at 11 o'clock Tuesday night, one of St. Joseph's best known citizens and business factors is taken from his home and friends.

While his death was not unexpected, yet when the news reached the people of St. Joseph Wednesday morning, expressions of sorrow were heard on all sides, for they realized that a man who had done much and had accomplished much for this great city and this great state had passed from active life to the realms of the unknown. The rich and well-to-do knew that they had lost one who was their counselor and friend and the poor knew that they had lost a friend and protector—one who always came to their rescue when assistance or help was needed, and who never failed them.

For several weeks Mr. Britain had suffered from stomach ailments, but it was an attack of acute indigestion which culminated in his death. All of his children were at home at the end, as for a week it was known that he could not recover. For that length of time he had been unconscious. Rev. M. M. McKay conducted the funeral which took place yesterday.

Mr. Britain's wife died some years ago. He is survived by his children, Mrs. Stoughton Walker, Mrs. Samuel I. Motter, Mrs. R. E. Hastings and John S. Britain, Jr., of St. Joseph, and Miss Mildred Britain of Chicago.

Mr. Britain made his earthly abode in Belvidere, New Jersey, Nov. 30, 1841, and when a year old was taken by his parents to Trenton, New Jersey, where he remained until he entered Princeton college, from which he graduated and then went to Philadelphia, where he was employed for a year when he felt the desire for the great West and came to Forest City, this state, where he engaged in business in a small way in 1869 and laid the foundation for the great business career which was to follow. In January, 1869, he was married to Miss Susan Mason Turner, who departed this life Feb. 2, 1905.

In 1870 Mr. Britain realized that St. Joseph was the coming metropolis of the country and removed to this city where he engaged in business, purchasing an interest in the mercantile firm of John S. Lemon & Co., and the firm name became Britain, Overman & Co. The business occupied a building at Third and Francis streets. In 1875 it was changed to Britain, Smith & Co., at the death of Mr. Overman. In 1882 the style was again changed to Britain, Richardson & Co., and in 1892 to the John S. Britain Dry Goods Company.

The present home of the company at Fourth and Jule streets was erected in 1882. In addition the company occupies large storage rooms and operates a men's goods factory at Third and Jule streets.

Mr. Britain owned much real estate in St. Joseph and vicinity, and owned a large block of stock in the Buchanan Hotel Company, owners of the Robidoux Hotel building.

The present firm of which he was the head is known all over the commercial world. It is an institution which is not equalled in the West, although many other cities make rapid and untenable claims. Upon his retirement from active participation the firm was reorganized with R. W. Powell, president; W. H. Beattie, vice-president; W. A. Masters, secretary, and J. S. Britain, Jr., treasurer.

With the passing of Mr. Britain the commercial world loses a man whose influence was always felt—the community a man whom it can ill spare—his family a loving father and protector—and the city of St. Joseph a citizen who was always for all that was for the good of this great city.

While you are getting ready to send those welcome remembrances to your people and friends do not forget that there is many a poor child who will not receive a present on Christmas day, and that you can make that day one to be long cherished if you will out of your plenty remember the children of the poor.

find it hard to suffer any hardships since mother sent me so many practical things to keep me warm and make me comfortable. I have gained twenty pounds and feel fine.

"We have the Y. M. C. A. at Camp Baker, but the officers are going to fit up a rest room with library and piano and furnish us with pictures at a small cost. With pleasure with Maryville's record in the 'Y' campaign. It means wonders for the men."

## INCOME TAXPAYERS WILL HAVE SOME HELP

But Not in the Way of Putting Up the Money for the Collector

## BUT HELP TO GET IT IN SHAPE

Collector Ed. M. Harber Now Tells the Prospective Candidates How They May Get Assistance in the Way of Making Out Their Returns and to Expedite Matters He Will Send Out Trained Men to Show Them All the Workings of the System So They May Go Through the Siege in Proper Shape.

E. M. Harber, collector of internal revenue, Kansas City, Missouri, has been advised by the department that the income tax payer will not hereafter have to figure out his own income tax all by himself. The government, Mr. Harber is advised, is going to send out men to help such tax payers. It will, however, it must be understood, be up to all those who should make returns to hunt up these men, who will be sent into every county seat and some of the larger towns to meet the people. Postmasters, bankers and newspapers will be able to tell the tax payer when the government income tax man will be there, and where to find him. Such government representative will answer questions, answer the tax payer to the return, take his money and remove the wrinkles from his brow.

Returns of income for 1917 must be made between January 1st and March 1st, 1918; for failure to do so heavy penalty is provided.

## They Need the Help

"The government recognizes," Collector Harber says, "that many persons experience a good deal of difficulty in filling out income tax forms. It recognizes, too, that taxpayers resident at points where collectors' offices are not easily accessible find it hard to get proper instruction in the law. Next year, when every married person living with wife or husband and having a net income of \$2,000, and every unmarried person not the head of a family and having a net income of \$1,000 for the year 1917 must make return of income on the form prescribed, there will be hundreds in every community seeking light on the law, and help in executing their returns. My own and every other collection district in the nation will be divided into districts, with the county seat as the unit, and a government officer informed in the income tax assigned to each district. He will spend hardly less than a week in each county, and in some counties a longer time, very likely in the court house at the county seat towns. In cities where there are collectors' branch offices he will be there, and in other cities possibly at the city hall. My office will in due time advise postmasters and bankers and send out notices to the newspapers stating when the officer will be in each county. It will be unnecessary for prospective tax payers to ask my office for forms on which to make returns. The officer who visits their county will have them."

## What "Net Income" Is

"It may be stated as a matter of general information that 'net income' is the remainder after subtracting expenses from gross income. Personal, family, or living expense is not expense in the meaning of the law, the exemption being allowed to cover such expenses.

"The net exemptions of \$1,000 and \$2,000 will add tens of thousands to the number of income taxpayers in this district, inasmuch as practically every farmer, merchant, tradesman, professional man and salary worker and a great many wage workers will be required to make return and pay tax."

"The law makes it the duty of the taxpayer to seek out the collector. Many people assume that if an income tax form is not sent, or a government officer does not call, they are relieved from making report. This is decidedly in error. It is the other way round. The taxpayer has to go to the government and if he doesn't within the time prescribed, he is a violator of the law, and the government will go to him with its penalties."

Another house applauds the president's address. That's Colonel House.

## JOY FOR JOYRIDERS

Can Drop a Pill Into a Gall of Water and Have a Gallon of Gasoline for a Nickel.

Joy riders of this city may still have a chance to indulge themselves in a favorite pastime which of late has been threatened with extinction on account of the phenomenal rise in the price of gasoline, at this time almost prohibitive.

A St. Louis chemist, J. V. Nevins, has just made the announcement that he has discovered a chemical which, added to 123 parts of common old water has all of the qualifications of gasoline. The formula, which can be prepared at a cost of about five cents a gallon, will be offered to the United States government for its use and the use of the Allies the duration of the war.

Nevins stated that the chemical of his discovery is identical or similar to the announced discovery of Louis Enrich, who was enjoined by the supreme court of New York last week from selling the details of his discovery to the German government through agents, as the petition of prohibition stated he was trying to do.

Ne states he is in a position to prove his discovery to United States and turn the formula over to the use of the War Department. A substitute he has evolved, Nevins says, carries 16 per cent hydrogen and 6 per cent ethylene gas, while gasoline carries only 13 per cent of hydrogen and 3 per cent of ethylene gas. He claims, on the face of this statement, the substitute is of greater value than gasoline.

"I am an American citizen, and the United States government is welcome to my formula through its proper authorities," said Nevins. "I would be perfectly willing to reveal the formula publicly except for the fact that by so doing it would be furnished to the German government."

"I have tested the solution by flame, and in burning it has all the appearance and characteristics of gasoline. All of the properties of gasoline are there and I am convinced it is more efficient than gasoline. In addition it can be produced for a maximum of six cents a gallon and I believe can readily be manufactured for five cents. I am ready to demonstrate the discovery for the government."

And thus again through this discovery may the soul of the St. Joseph joy rider be made glad and his spirit be lifted high from the slough of despond.

## MUST PAY WAR TAX

Twenty Per cent of the Total Charge to be Included in Cabaret Visitors' Bills.

From now on if you go to a cabaret to dine you will have to pay a war tax. This is the instructions received by Deputy Collector of Revenue Floyd B. Edman at the collector's office in the federal building, and were given him by Ed. M. Harber of Kansas City, collector for the Sixth district of Missouri. These instructions inform diners at cabarets that they will soon have the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing towards the support of the boys in the trenches. The rules governing the collection of the tax probably will be issued by the treasury department next week.

"Regarding 20 per cent of the bill for refreshments as the cost of admission, where no admission fee is charged, the proposed tax is one cent on each ten cents or fraction thereof of such 20 per cent of the total charge. If, for instance, the check handed you by the waiter is for \$5, you will find at the bottom an additional 10 cents for war revenues."

The term cabaret is held to include "every hotel, restaurant, hall or other public place at or in which, in connection with the service or sale of food or other refreshment or merchandise, there is conducted any vaudeville, or other performance or diversion in the way of acting, singing, declamation or dancing, either with or without instrumental or other music."

Where there is only instrumental music by an orchestra, as in the case of many hotels, the tax does not apply. It does apply, however, if dancing is permitted.

The tax is paid by the person paying for the refreshment. The proposed rules require "every person, corporation, partnership or association conducting any public performance for profit at any cabaret or other similar entertainment to file with the collector of taxes in the district in which the cabaret is located on or before the tenth of each month beginning with December, a return under oath in duplicate of the amount of tax collected during the preceding month."